The Southerners' Caucus

Columbia Record

Most important disclosure at the Southern senators' closed door caucus was a proposal by Senator Dick Russell of Georgia to appropriate $3,500,000,000 to move the Negroes out of the South and poor white families into the South.

Russell told his colleagues that for some time he had been concerned about families which felt they had better economic opportunity in other parts of the country, and that if they wanted to move, the government should help them.

Therefore, he proposed that the government furnish up to $1,500 per family for transportation and sustenance if they wanted to move. He also proposed a "voluntary racial relocation commission' 'of three members to study the problem.

Russell said that this idea should apply to the West, North and East as well as the South.

His only worry about the plan was the 'church folk" in the South whom he said, might be opposed to this migration idea if it was rammed down the Negroes' throats. Therefore, Russell stressed the idea of voluntary migration.

Other Southern senators at the caucus backed the Russell proposal unanimously. Inq. 7-30-48

They also agreed that there would be no bolting to the Dixiecrats, and that if cloture were voted on civil rights legislation each would speak one hour against it. Most of the meeting was taken up with speculation as to what the Republicans would do.

Truman Still Irked At Tito

President Truman rejected a last-minute suggestion from Democratic advisers that he discuss the tense international situation in his message to Congress. The reason, he said, was because the prospects for peace were brighter than they have been for three months.

"Conditions internationally are better now than they were three months ago," the President told Senator Alben Barkley, Rep. John McCormack and other Democratic leaders. Columbia S. C.

He was visibly irritated over a newspaper report that former governor of California, Culbert Olsen, had talked to Marshal Tito and was optimistic about better trade relations between Yugoslavia and the United States.

"There is no foundation to that," snorted the President. The United States, he added sharply, does not intend to baby Marshall Tito just because he has been dropped by the Cominform. 2-30-48

Note—One day after the President's optimistic note on the international situation, the Soviets started the largest maneuvers since the end of the war in their zone of Germany. A total of 350,000 men plus jet fighters and Stalin tanks maneuvered for the benefit of the United States.

Merry-Go-Round

Though now secretary of state, General Marshall still retains a spare office in the Pentagon building where he worked so long as chief of staff. Gen. Lucius Clay used the room as a hideout during his short stay in Washington. . . . Most people don't know it, but General Clay wanted to be an army lawyer after he received his commission, but was turned down by the judge advocate general.

MAYS

Forty-Ninth State In Africa Is Suggested by Dixie White Scholar

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh Pa Sat 12-11-48

By BENJAMIN E. MAYS

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier. — The Editors.)

NEGROES WHO ARE hopeful and who feel that progress in race relations is being made on every front should read "Whither Solid South?" by Charles Wallace Collins. Those who believe that Bilboism died with Bilbo and that the spirit of the Dixiecrat movement died with its political collapse Nov. 2 should read this book. He is a man of learning and experience. He has studied at the Universities of Chicago and Harvard. He has served as law librarian of Congress and of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is a mistaken notion that it is only the politician, the poor, and the illiterates who stir up ill-will between the races. Sat 12-11-48

Dr. Mays

If Mr. Collins is speaking the mind of the majority of the people in the white South, the way and future of race relations in the South are indeed bitter and hard. If he is speaking for the majority of the white South, the god of the South is "white supremacy" and its religion is "second-class citizenship for the Negro." I have no way of knowing what percentage of white people in the South believe as Mr. Collins does about the Negro. I can only say that I know some white people in the South who do not believe as he believes.

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MR. COLLINS sets out to do several things: He attempts to prove the inherent, biological superiority of the white man and the permanent inferiority of the Negro. He labors hard to do this. He writes to defend white supremacy. He opposes any program of civil rights sponsored by either State or Federal Government designed to give the Negro any kind of equality with the white man. He sees no real injustice which the South inflicts upon the Negro. Mr. Collins could be the author of the recent Dixiecrat idea of withholding the South's electoral votes in an effort to throw the election of the President in the House of Representatives.

Collins argues that there are three bars that will keep the Negro from ever being integrated into every phase of American life: the bar of blood, the bar of segregation, and the bar of suffrage. Democracy, religion, nor science can do anything about these bars. He says of the blood bar: "Public opinion in the South does not permit any question there of the assertion of white supremacy. It is taken for granted and is not open to debate. It is not based upon a conclusion deliberately arrived at that every Negro is inferior in every way to every white man.

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THE FACT that many individual Negroes have accomplishments and ability beyond that of many whites does not make any difference. White supremacy is a political doctrine. It is not a question of scientific proof. It will do no good to bring in the phrenologist to measure skulls, the anatomist and the chemist to study brain capacity and brain cells, the psychologist and the social engineer to conduct questions and answers with white and Negro school children or the anthropologist to study racial origins. These activities may have their place for various reasons, but they will not be of any constructive effect on race relations in the South."

As for the bar of segregation, he quotes approvingly Mark Ethridge: "There is no power in the world — not even in all the mechanized armies of the earth, Allied and Axis—which could force the Southern white people to the abandonment of the principle of social segregation." As for the bar of suffrage, he says: "Inherent in the doctrine of white supremacy is the principle that the Negro shall have no part in governing the white people."

MR. COLLINS contends further that the "question of white supremacy—a political doctrine—has no religious connotation at all." The values which the white South seeks to preserve are not religious and adherence to them does not violate the tenets of the Christian religion. He quotes approvingly John Locke who held that salvation of the soul is the exclusive end of religion. The Federal Constitution is dismissed on the ground that only the State has jurisdiction over civil rights. He concludes his book with the chapter, "A Forty-ninth State in Africa." The Negro, he argues, will never be anything but a second-rate citizen in the United States. The only solution is "to establish an African settlement which would promote on that continent the civilization of the United States under Negro leadership." For this purpose he would annex Liberia, acquire Sierra Leone and land from France in French West Africa.

A brief comment in closing. The destiny of the Negro is not in Mr. Collins' hands nor is the destiny of the white race. The destiny of both is in the hands of God. At this point, let Mr. Collins beware. The white man's fear of social equality is an admission that white people want to socialize with Negroes; otherwise, it couldn't happen.